

## **Legal Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS Elk Creek Watershed Project**

The Forest Service is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Elk Creek Watershed Project, and we are asking you to provide scoping comments. The Elk Creek Watershed Project was developed to address the needs to manage forest stands to be more resilient to future disturbances, improve water quality to maintain and restore riparian and aquatic habitat, maximize efficiency of system roads and trails that provide public access to the Forest while minimizing resource impacts, improve terrestrial habitat for northern spotted owl and Roosevelt elk, reduce fuel accumulations, contribute to local and regional economies by providing forest products and enhancing recreational opportunities, and improve the vigor and prevalence of Karuk cultural resources. This project area encompasses 45,922 acres and is located on the Happy Camp/Oak Knoll Ranger District of the Klamath National Forest south of Happy Camp, California in Siskiyou County: Township 16 North, Range 7 East, Sections 10 to 12, 13 to 15, 22 to 27 and 34 to 36; Township 16 North, Range 8 East, Sections 21, 22 and 27 to 34; Township 15 North, Range 7 East, Sections 1 to 3, 10 to 15, 23 to 27, and 34 to 36; Township 15 North, Range 8 East, Sections 16 to 22, and 27 to 34; Township 14 North, Range 7 East, Sections 1 to 3, Humboldt Meridian; and Township 45 North, Range 12 West, Sections 17 to 20, 30 and 31; Township 44 North, Range 12 West, Sections 7, 18 and 19, Mount Diablo Meridian.

To meet the purpose and need the project proposes a total of 10,554 acres of the following vegetation treatment types: commercial thinning, noncommercial thinning, hardwood enhancement, meadow enhancement, fuels reduction adjacent to private property, defensible fuel profile zone, roadside fuels reduction, and underburning. The project also proposes changes to the national forest transportation system including road maintenance level changes, road decommissioning, and new hiking and mountain biking trails. Proposal information is available on Klamath National Forest's project webpage at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=46553>.

This project is subject to comment pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. Only those who submit timely project-specific written comments during a public comment period are eligible to file an objection. Comments received within 30 days of the publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register are assured consideration in the next phase of project planning.

Submit electronic comments at the Klamath National Forest's project webpage: <http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=46553> by selecting the "Comment on Project" link in the "Get Connected" group at the right hand side of the project webpage. Put the project name in the subject line; attachments may be in the following formats: plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc, .docx), or portable document format (.pdf). Written comments can be submitted via fax (530) 493-1796 or mailed to Patricia A. Grantham, ATTN: Dock Chastain, Happy Camp/Oak Knoll Ranger District Office, 63822 State Highway 96, P.O. Box 377 Happy Camp, CA 96039-0377 or hand-delivered during normal business hours (8am to 4:30pm Monday-Friday, excluding holidays).

For oral comments or more project information contact team lead Dock Chastain at (530) 493-1742 or [jchastain@fs.fed.us](mailto:jchastain@fs.fed.us).